

**Small chamber at Ballard's Chittenden Locks closing for two weeks
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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SEATTLE--

The small lock at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks in Ballard will close its gates to marine traffic and be drained or "dewatered" for 13 days starting at 7 a.m. tomorrow March 9 through 4 p.m. March 20. The closure will allow crews to conduct critical annual maintenance, according to the Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which owns and operates the project.

"The Large Lock will continue to operate 24/7 and we'll get the commercial traffic through as quickly as possible," according to Dave Carpenter, the project's Operations Manager.

"All pleasure boats will be using the large lock during this time," he went on.

"Mariners may experience some delay during the period depending upon how heavy the demand for passage becomes," he concluded.

The small lock is capable of handling vessels up to 25 feet wide and 100 feet long while the large lock can be configured to be handle vessels as large as 760 feet by 80 feet.

The large lock will remain open for boat traffic throughout this period and boaters should be prepared to use the large lock with appropriate equipment and crew.

The scheduled repairs to the small lock are part of an annual general maintenance program.

The Chittenden Locks safely transits well over 60,000 vessels each year between Lake Washington and Salmon Bay in Seattle's Ballard neighborhood.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Project Control Tower at 206-783-7000. An on-duty Lockmaster can help you with any questions you may have. For current information about activities at the Locks or "Locking Through", check the Corps of Engineers website at: <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil> and select "Dams and Locks" then "Lake Washington Ship Canal" from the leftmost column.